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by the companies. The final act of the meeting held on 14 June 1951 was the union's refusal to accept the rejections of clauses four and five.

6. Porfirio Marval, leader of Partido Revolucionario del Proletariado (Comunista), came to Maracaibo from the eastern part of Venezuela in May 1951, hoping to represent the non-licensed personnel in negotiating a new contract. During the first week of June 1951 he presented to the labor inspector his petition, signed by 250 seamen who agreed to have him represent them, and asked for a meeting with oil company representatives. A brief meeting was held shortly thereafter, at which time the companies asked for a delay of three weeks before initiating formal discussions, as they had done when the union petition was submitted. The company request was granted by the labor inspector and agreed upon by Marval. The next meeting with him has been scheduled for 25 June 1951, at which time the companies hope to have him and his faction declared ineligible to negotiate by the labor inspector, on the grounds that he does not represent at least seventy-five percent of labor, a stipulation of the labor code.

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Comment. Labor realizes that tanker personnel will be considerably reduced after Shell inaugurates its new pipeline to the Paraguana peninsula. This realization could produce one of two effects: they will either be more willing to compromise in view of their obviously weakened position, or it may induce them to make a last-ditch, determined stand.

The new union is in an extremely difficult position. Its current prestige and perhaps its entire future hinges on the present negotiations. A successful settlement, advantageous to labor, would be quite a feather in the union's cap. On the other hand, if it were to negotiate a contract which later proved to be unpopular with labor, it would constitute a serious handicap for the union. Hence, the negotiating union will probably be forced to weigh the issues with unusual caution in attempting to arrive at an advantageous balance.

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